



AIAOhio
Foundation

**AIA Ohio &
The AIA Ohio Foundation**

Call for Submissions

**Student Design
Awards**

Bowling Green State University
Kent State University
Miami University
The Ohio State University
University of Cincinnati

Program Summary 2025-2026 Academic Year

Overview

The AIA Ohio Foundation Student Design Awards program focuses on high quality, innovative design responses. This program allows students to submit any school project they have worked on during the past academic year, including projects completed outside of the classroom setting (e.g. competitions). Students may even elect to re-address and re-submit projects previously submitted as part of course work and improve their original design solution. The AIA Ohio Foundation Student Design Awards provides all students with the opportunity to submit their best and most innovative work.

The AIA Ohio Foundation 2025–2026 Student Design Awards

The AIA Ohio Foundation Student Design Awards starts now! Students at any of the five (5) Ohio architectural programs are eligible to submit their work. The program will work as follows:

Student Work:

- Students may submit any work that they have completed either individually or as a team during this current academic year.
- The work can be from a studio project, independent study or just a project or concept that appeals to the student.
- At or near the end of the academic year, students should submit projects for review by an in-house jury. The submission requirements for the in-house jury will be up to each school. Any format of projects (boards, PowerPoint, web based, etc.,) are acceptable. All are valid. The end result is that the AIA Ohio Foundation is looking for each school to select the top eight (8) submissions to forward on to the AIA Ohio Foundation. The AIA Ohio Foundation will require the winning projects to upload their submissions via Openwater, a web-based awards management program that permits the submission of a variety of different formats, including jpg, pdf and Word documents.
Each school should select a competition coordinator, who will have responsibility for
- communicating with students and the AIA Ohio Foundation, receiving entries, and overseeing the school jury process.
The students, in addition to their images, will need to submit a written description of their work.
- This should be a 100–150 word statement of their process and conceptual approach to addressing the studio problem. While projects will be evaluated on the entire composition, it is also important for the projects to be juried against the students' own statement.

The Jury Process: The Schools

- The AIA Ohio Foundation would like to see the best and most innovative designs submitted and as part of this focus, we are leaving the submissions wide open. There are no restrictions as to the type of projects submitted. Given this, key review criteria include design excellence, innovation, and an assessment of how well the design solution solves the problem addressed in the written statement. No single student may submit more than one *individual* project.
The AIA Ohio Foundation requests that the jury process include (in addition to faculty) design
- professionals, alumni, or others who will help strengthen the review process. While there are a number of adjunct faculty in many of the schools, it is our hope that others outside of the faculty

would be invited to participate in this process. The actual makeup of the in-house jury remains the responsibility of the schools and the Ohio Foundation will accept the process determined appropriate by each school.

- Through this process, the students will have the opportunity to submit their best work that illustrates design ability and innovative thinking on a range of topics. Once each school's jury has selected the top eight submissions, the students/schools will be provided with information on how to upload those projects to Openwater for the AIA Ohio Foundation to review.

The Jury Process: AIA Ohio Foundation

- The AIA Ohio Foundation Student Design Awards shall be coordinated by the AIA Ohio Foundation or designee in conjunction with AIA Ohio Foundation staff and management.
- Once submissions are uploaded to AIA Ohio Foundation via Openwater, the jury will review all submissions provided from the schools.
- The jury will be comprised of approximately five (5) individuals selected by the AIA Ohio Foundation and will include respected designers from throughout Ohio who are members of the AIA and who, through their designs, espouse some of the same innovative approaches to design that we seek from student submissions. The AIA Ohio Foundation will coordinate the work of the jury and will serve in a non-voting capacity.
- Given the anticipated variety in submissions, the jury will have flexibility in determining awards and the number and rank of awards (1st, 2nd, 3rd place, honorable mention). At least one first place award of \$1,000 or more will be provided with other awards equaling not less than \$500. A total of approximately \$4,000 will be awarded.
- All work submitted for review must be anonymous. Names of students and academic institutions should be removed from all documents submitted.

Program Submission

The process for submitting and reviewing projects is flexible and adaptable to student and school needs. All projects need to be uploaded to Openwater. **The deadline for submissions to the AIA Ohio Foundation is June 5th.** The student award recipients will be recognized at the annual AIA Ohio Conference in the fall. It should be noted that as part of the student submissions, the AIA Ohio Foundation is not requiring printed or mounted displays. The projects will be displayed digitally.

Questions

Questions may be directed to aiaohio@assnoffices.com.